

# social hygiene news

AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION



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## Psychologists, VD Authorities, Meet



Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Johannas Stuart; Dr. E. Gurney Clark; Randel Shake; Conrad Van Hyning, ASHA executive director; T. L. Richman, ASHA associate director; Dr. John Beeston, and Dr. J. M. Bobbitt. Dr. Robert Carlson, also a committee member, is not in picture. (See story next column.)

## Millions Get VD Facts Via TV Shows

An estimated 2,000,000 people in Los Angeles and another 100,000 in San Antonio saw TV programs about venereal disease last month.

Both shows, one on station KTTV in Los Angeles, and the other on station WOAITV in San Antonio, were built around the "Invader," prize winning documentary film on the history of syphilis.

Both programs were organized by local social hygiene groups working closely with community health officers.

In Los Angeles, the Hollywood Health Education and Venereal Disease Council spearheaded the program, and in San Antonio, the San Antonio Social Hygiene Committee did the groundwork.

In his "Confidential File" show, Paul Coates, Los Angeles newsman, conducted a series of dramatic interviews with a masked teenager infected with VD, an elderly man with blindness caused by syphilis, and two youngsters who upon questioning revealed little or no knowledge about the facts of venereal disease.

Dr. Gerald Heidbreder, VD Control Officer of the Los Angeles County Health Department, and board member of the Health Education and Venereal Disease Council, gave the boys and girls on the show the correct answers to the questions they missed.

Called "The Invader," the 70-minute presentation in San Antonio featured the entire film, and concluded

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## Committee Plans Teen VD Study

Preliminary plans for a nation-wide study of venereal disease and promiscuity in teenagers were drawn up by a committee which met last month at the American Social Hygiene Association's New York offices.

The committee, composed of mental health specialists and VD control experts, recommended that early action be taken on the proposed study.

The seriousness of the venereal disease situation among teenagers has just been underlined by the availability of new data.

U. S. Public Health Service statistics, available for the first time in cumulative percentages by age, show that the proportion of primary and secondary syphilis among teenage girls rose to 34.64% in 1955. This is 4% higher than the proportion for 1953.

For males in the same age group the proportion remains constant.

Estimates give an overall teenage VD incidence of some 200,000 cases per year.

Among objectives set by committee members for the proposed study were:

1. Investigation of teenage attitudes towards sex and VD.
2. Investigation of teenage sex behavior patterns.
3. Identification of frequency patterns of VD infection and reinfection among teenagers.
4. A study of the social and economic factors which may predispose teenagers to promiscuity.
5. Inquiry into the source of teenage sex and VD information.

Members of the preliminary planning committee were: E. Gurney Clark, M.D., professor of epidemiology, Columbia University School of Public Health; Randel Shake, director

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# Col. Browning Named Life Member

Colonel Levi M. Browning, United States Air Force medical officer, was named an honorary life member of the American Social Hygiene Association at a luncheon in Denver, Colorado, on November 7.

The honor was conferred on Dr. Browning by Frank H. Heller, of Dallas, Texas, ASHA Board Member, in recognition of his furtherance of the goals of social hygiene as a member of the Joint Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Boards and of Army Character Guidance Councils.

Sponsors of the luncheon were the Health Division of the Denver Area Welfare Council, the Public Health Council and the American Social Hygiene Association.

Colonel Browning has served as Air Force representative on all Disciplinary Control Boards in the eastern United States, and Theatre Representative on the Boards of Alaska.

The Disciplinary Control Boards help the Armed Forces and civilian health and law enforcement agencies work more closely to maintain wholesome conditions near Armed Forces military installations and in communities frequented by military personnel.

Principal speaker, Dr. Walter Clarke, executive director emeritus of the American Social Hygiene Association, lauded Colonel Browning for his "invaluable assistance" to ASHA in developing educational materials for use in character guidance activities within the army.

A graduate of the University of Illinois Medical School, Colonel Browning saw service in Africa and Italy during World War II, and was



Colonel Levi M. Browning

Surgeon for the China Air Service Command in 1944 and 1945.

He served four years as Surgeon of Headquarters Command at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., and currently serves as Surgeon, USAF Academy; Surgeon, Lowry Air Force Base; and Commander of the 3415th USAF Hospital.

## Family Life Lines

### MINNESOTA

An institute for leaders in parent and family life education was held in September at the University of Minnesota's Center for Continuation Study. Faculty members included Laurel M. Pennock, Principal of the Jefferson School, Rochester, Minnesota, and Mrs. W. K. Evans, State Chairman, Home and Family Life Committee, Minnesota Congress of Parents and Teachers. Both are advisory committee members of ASHA's Midwest projects on family life education.

### NEW YORK

A sourcebook containing suggestions on how to organize meetings and conferences to plan for family life education programs in the schools has been prepared by Charles Messner, ASHA education consultant. The booklet titled, *A Guide to Program Planning*, contains tips on how to find and use personnel, gives program ideas and suggests helpful materials. Copies may be obtained by writing to ASHA's Education Department.

### TENNESSEE

The University of Chattanooga is offering an 11-week workshop on family living. Dr. Robert Reiff, clinical psychologist with the University's Guidance Clinic is workshop director.

### INDIANA

Muncie, Indiana, launched a new series of Family Life Education sessions for its elementary school teachers last month, under the leadership of Harold W. Wallace, director of special education in Muncie City schools. First session of the series had the theme, "How the Elementary Field Treats Family Life Education."

## Social Workers See Family Life Class

A unique teachers-eye-view of a family life education class in action was given to social workers in Missouri last month.

Under the sponsorship of the Missouri Social Hygiene Association a class of sixth grade public school pupils and their teacher were transported to the annual conference of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare held in St. Louis, October 18 to 20.

There, with a high screen dividing the boys and girls from the adult audience, the children saw the film, "Human Growth."

After the film, the children asked questions which came "as fast as bullets," according to one enthusiastic adult viewer.

When the demonstration was over,

the youngsters were sent back to their school rooms and the audience engaged in a panel discussion of phases of family life education programs.

Presiding over the meeting was Miss Helen Manley, director of health, physical education, camping and safety department, University City Public Schools, University City, Missouri.

Members of the panel were Mrs. J. Hart Brown, executive director, Missouri Social Hygiene Association; Mrs. Arthur S. Gilson, Jr., chairman, Girl Scout Social Hygiene Program, St. Louis; Dr. B. Y. Glassberg, director, health and hygiene, St. Louis Public Schools; and Dr. Jules H. Kopp, vice-president, Missouri Social Hygiene Association.

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## Royal Society Elects Dickerson

Roy E. Dickerson, executive secretary of the Cincinnati Social Hygiene Society, and member of the American Social Hygiene Association's board of directors and educational advisory committee, has been elected to the Royal Society of Health, London, England.

Mr. Dickerson, a Fellow of the American Public Health Association, was named to the highest elective membership in the society which is under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth and bears a coat of arms granted by the College of Heralds.

The Royal Society, founded in 1878, has an international membership and is the largest organization of its kind in the world.

## Students Misbehave: Families Spanked

Unsatisfactory family life was cited by more than 4,000 classroom teachers throughout the country as a major cause of student misbehavior in the schoolroom.

In a recent poll conducted by the National Education Association, teachers rated irresponsible parents first as a cause of misbehavior. Unsatisfactory home conditions were ranked second and lack of parental supervision due to a working mother, third.

Almost thirty-two per cent of the teachers thought the lack of training of boys and girls in moral and spiritual values was responsible for misbehavior to an important extent. Another thirty-five per cent thought it was responsible to some extent.

## High VD Percentage Seen In New Jersey

More than nine per cent of 10,000 people recently examined in Newark, N. J., "very likely" have venereal disease.

This was reported by Dr. Aaron H. Haskin, Newark health officer, to the *Newark News*.

Dr. Haskin declared the positive laboratory reports indicate a "high percentage of reactors."

"Syphilis," he asserted, "is as much a threat to family life now as in the past."

The project, carried on from August 21 to September 15, was a cooperative undertaking of the local and state Health Departments.

Samples of blood were taken from those wishing the test at street corner mobile centers. In all, 1,574 tests were taken, with 9.6 per cent of laboratory reports being positive.

Dr. James E. Peterman, head of the metropolitan office of the state agency, said the apparent amount of disease is running slightly below the amount found in a similar survey two years ago.

Definite diagnosis is not made on the basis of a single blood test, he pointed out, and follow up work is now being done by state and local health workers who are rechecking suspicious cases.

## Erie Honors Oldsters

A grand total of 130 couples who have been married fifty years or more were feted by the Erie Social Hygiene Association at its fourth annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Luncheon held last month.

More than 400 guests were on hand to cheer them and to hear 86-year-old Indian Chief William Red Fox, married fifty-two years, reprimand the youngsters of today.

"They want luxury before they secure a home. The girls want bigger and bigger television sets and bigger and bigger cars."

The Chief, a member of the Sioux tribe, recommended that the "lost arts" of hard work and sacrifice be reinstated if marriages are to succeed. He told parents to teach children the love of home.

Executive Director of the Erie Social Hygiene Association, Samuel Robbins, said that the luncheon drew the largest attendance in its history.

## Education Leaders Meet In Minnesota



Making new plans for ASHA's Midwest Projects on Education for Personal and Family Living are (left to right), Ellis White, ASHA director of education; Warren C. Lovinger, president, Central Missouri State College; Gerald Halstine, dean, University of Nevada, and Paul J. Hanson, superintendent of schools, Little Falls, Minn., and projects coordinator. The group met last month in Minneapolis.

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## Social Hygiene News

### VD Study

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National Child Welfare Division, American Legion; Dr. Robert Carlson, social psychologist, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; John Beeston, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of preventive medicine and public health, University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. J. M. Bobbitt, chief, Professional Service Branch, National Institute of Mental Health; and Dr. Johannas Stuart, program management officer, VD Programs, Public Health Service.

### TV Shows

(Continued from page 1)

with a panel discussion on the VD problem led by Edward G. Conroy, chairman of the San Antonio Social Hygiene Committee and ASHA Honorary Life Member.

Panel members were: Rev. Robert S. Tate, Jr., pastor, Alamo Heights Methodist Church; Dr. J. C. Ellington, director, Department of Public Health, San Antonio; Dr. Allan A. Doane, VD Control Division, Texas State Department of Health; Rev. Albert G. Henkes, pastor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Archdiocese Director, Catholic Parent Teachers Guild; and Captain Claude V. Hepworth, M.D., USAF Medical Corps, clinic director, Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio.

"The Invader" was produced by the Center for Mass Communication of Columbia University Press.



### Maj. Gen. Maglin Receives Snow Medal

Major General William H. Maglin (center), Provost Marshal of the Army, is shown as he receives the American Social Hygiene Association's William Freeman Snow Medal from ASHA President Philip R. Mather as Lieut. General Thomas W. Herren, Commanding General of the First Army and principal speaker at the event, look on. More than a hundred military and civic leaders were on hand at the luncheon held last month in New York's Plaza Hotel to see General Maglin receive ASHA's highest award for his establishment of rehabilitation programs and projects to prevent delinquency among youth in the armed forces.